

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (new) A self-ballasted fluorescent lamp comprising:

an arc tube formed by parallelly arranging a plurality of U-shaped bent bulbs in such a manner that the maximum width of the bulbs ranges from about 32 mm to about 42 mm, each of which has a bent portion and straight portions;

a cover including a base that is adapted to permit said arc tube to be attached thereto;

a lighting circuit which includes a circuit board having the maximum width ranging up to 1.2 times the maximum width of the arc tube, said maximum width of the arc tube being the dimension along which the U-shaped bent bulbs are arranged, said lighting circuit contained in the cover in such a manner that the circuit board is positioned with one of its sides facing all the ends of the straight portions of the arc tube;

a globe attached to the cover and enclosing the arc tube having a diameter and a base end;

a first dimension being a distance between the globe and each crown of the arc tube;

a second dimension being a distance between the diameter of the globe and the arc tube;

and

a third dimension being a distance between the base end of the globe and the arc tube,

wherein the second dimension is greater than the first dimension when the first dimension is greater than or equal to the third dimension.

Claim 27 (new) A self ballasted fluorescent lamp as in claim 26, wherein the arc tube further comprises the diameter of the globe being from about 55 mm to about 60 mm.

Claim 28 (new) A self-ballasted fluorescent lamp as in claim 26, wherein the first dimension is from about 2 mm to about 8 mm, the second dimension is from about 3 mm to about 13 mm and the third dimension is from about 2 mm to about 8 mm.

Claim 29 (new) A self-ballasted fluorescent lamp as in claim 26, wherein an outer shape of the lamp resembles a light bulb for general illumination.

Claim 30 (new) A self ballasted fluorescent lamp, as in claim 26, wherein:
the U-shaped bent bulbs has an outer tube diameter ranging from about 8 mm to about 11 mm.

Claim 31 (new) A self-ballasted fluorescent lamp, as in claim 26, wherein:
the U-shaped bent bulbs of the arc tube are arranged in such a manner that the cross sections of the U-shaped bent bulbs give the appearance of a triangle.

Claim 32 (new) A self-ballasted fluorescent lamp, as in claim 26, wherein:
said lighting circuit includes a half-bridge type inverter main circuit having at least a pair of transistors consisting of an N-channel transistor and a P-channel transistor, which are connected in series with each other to an input power supply and serve as the main switching element for generating a high frequency voltage;

said lighting circuit further includes a ballast choke connected to the main inverter main circuit so as to light the arc tube in stable conditions and;

said lighting circuit further includes a control means which has a secondary winding magnetically connected to the ballast choke and shared by the N-channel transistor and the P-channel transistor so that the control means serves to control the transistors by means of the secondary winding.

Claim 33 (new) A luminaire including a self-ballasted fluorescent lamp as in claim 26.